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# ROBERT BROOKS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Rob Brooks Approves Constitutional Amendment of Chief Justice**

*Rep. Rob Brooks argues that Constitutional Amendment creates accountability*

**Madison**—State Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) voted today to approve a constitutional amendment to reform the process by which the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is selected. Currently, the most senior member of the Supreme Court automatically becomes Chief Justice. Wisconsin is just one of five states that uses seniority as the sole criteria for selecting the Chief Justice. This amendment affords sitting justices with the opportunity to elect their Chief Justice for a two-year term. Additionally, the amendment shifts the selection process to involve the input of all seven justices, providing for a more democratic approach to running Wisconsin's highest court. At this writing, twenty-three other state elect their Chief Justice based on the peer-selection process.

"The system of allowing member to elect their leaders has proven successful in the legislature; the judicial branch should be granted the same privilege," said Rep. Rob Brooks. "The bill is about democracy. I believe this is what democracy is supposed to look like," opined Rep. Rob Brooks.

This amendment has the overwhelming support of Wisconsin voters. [A 2011 poll by 20/20 Insight Polling](#) clearly illustrated that this amendment is support by the people of Wisconsin with sixty-two percent of this polled in favor of altering the method by which Wisconsin's Chief Justice is selected.

"This is something voters want," said Rep. Rob Brooks. And ultimately, voters will decide whether or not to approve this change to the constitution."

In order to amend the constitution, two subsequent legislatures must pass the same resolution and voters must approve the change in a statewide referendum.

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